WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

identifying a last usable track on a surface as a function of a parameter; and

defining a standoff band of tracks relative to the last usable track to obtain an achieved maximum track on the surface.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the last usable track on the surface further comprises identifying a last usable track, beyond a default maximum track, on the surface as a function of the parameter.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the last usable track on the surface as a function of the parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of a bias or position parameter.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein identifying the last usable track on the surface further comprises identifying the last usable track on a recording media surface.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias or position parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of a bias parameter associated with an actuator which positions a data head over the recording media.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the bias parameter exceeds a threshold.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the bias parameter is an average bias slope, and wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the average bias slope exceeds a predetermined percentage of an overall average bias slope.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the bias parameter is indicative of an obstruction encountered by the actuator.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the obstruction is an inner diameter crash stop.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a rate of change of the bias parameter exceeds a threshold rate of change of the bias parameter.

11. The method of claim 4, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias or position parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of a position error signal (PES) value.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the PES value exceeds a predetermined percentage of an average PES value.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a track PES exceeds a predetermined percentage of a maximum budgeted PES.

14. The method of claim 3, wherein defining the standoff band of tracks further comprises categorizing 400 tracks outside of the last usable track to obtain the achieved maximum track on the surface.

15. A system comprising:

a controller configured to control movement of a head/actuator over a surface; and

processing circuitry coupled to the controller and configured to execute the steps:

identifying a last usable track on the surface as a function of a parameter; and

defining a standoff band of tracks relative to the last usable track to obtain an achieved maximum track on the surface.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the step of identifying the last usable track on the surface further comprises identifying a last usable track, beyond a default maximum track, on the surface as a function of the parameter.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the step of identifying the last usable track on the surface as a function of the parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of a bias or position parameter.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias or position parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter, indicative of a bias force on the actuator, by determining when the bias parameter exceeds a threshold.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the bias parameter is an average bias slope, and wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises determining when the average bias slope exceeds a predetermined percentage of an overall average bias slope.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias or position parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a rate of change of the bias parameter exceeds a threshold rate of change of the bias parameter.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias or position parameter further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of a position error signal (PES) value.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the PES value exceeds a predetermined percentage of an average PES value.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a track PES exceeds a predetermined percentage of a maximum budgeted PES.